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Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2347 (2017)

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2347 (2017), the Security Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and noted with grave concern the involvement of non-State actors, notably terrorist groups, in the destruction of cultural heritage and the trafficking in cultural property and related offences. The Council encouraged Member States to take preventive measures to safeguard cultural property in the context of armed conflict and to provide assistance in demining cultural sites. In paragraph 8 of that resolution, the Council requested Member States to take appropriate steps to prevent and counter the illicit trade and trafficking in cultural property and other items of archaeological, historical, cultural, rare scientific, and religious importance originating from armed conflict areas, notably from terrorist groups, including by prohibiting the cross-border trade in such illicit items, particularly when there was reasonable suspicion that such items had been illegally removed from Iraq since 6 August 1990 and from Syria since 15 March 2011. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 22 of resolution 2347 (2017), by which the Council requested me to report on the implementation of that resolution.

2. The report was prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. The information and observations herein are based on submissions by 29[1] Member States and other international governmental and non-governmental bodies, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) and the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

* Reissued for technical reasons on 28 November 2017.

[1] Argentina, Armenia, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Myanmar, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Uruguay and Ukraine.

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3. Given the relatively short time since the adoption of resolution 2347 (2017), it is difficult to evaluate its impact on the ability of Member States to counter threats. More time is needed for Member States and art market actors to adjust their legislation and business procedures, respectively. Therefore, the present report takes stock of the existing situation, including prior to the adoption of the resolution, and provides a baseline against which future developments can be assessed in subsequent reports, should the Security Council request them.

II. Recent developments

4. Out of the 82 UNESCO World Heritage properties in the Arab States region, 17 are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger owing to armed conflict. In Iraq, the World Heritage Sites of Hatra and Ashur have sustained damage. Nimrud and the Ancient City of Nineveh, both on the country's Tentative List, have also been severely affected. In addition, over 100 other Iraqi cultural heritage sites have been damaged or destroyed. All six World Heritage Sites in the Syrian Arab Republic have been severely affected by armed conflict, notably the Crac des Chevaliers and the Ancient Cities of Aleppo and Damascus. Key components of the World Heritage Site of Palmyra have been intentionally destroyed and, on 18 August 2015, its former Director of Antiquities, Khalid al-Asaad, was killed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh).[2] Eight sites on the country's Tentative List, as well as many other heritage sites, have been damaged, destroyed or severely affected, notably by looting and illegal excavations. In Yemen, the World Heritage Sites of the Old City of Sana'a and the Historic Town of Zabid, in addition to the Old City of Sa'adah and the Marib Dam, both on the country's Tentative List, have been repeatedly damaged. The cultural heritage sites of Libya have also been affected by damage, looting and destruction, including at least eight religious sites in the Old Town of Tripoli and its surroundings throughout 2014 and 2015, as well as the World Heritage Site of Sabratha in 2017.

5. While reliable estimates of the overall value of antiquities smuggling are not available, information provided by Member States from 2015 onwards reveals the development by ISIL of administrative structures designed to manage looting activities and evidence of the "taxing" of looted antiquities. This suggests that ISIL organized the large-scale looting and smuggling of cultural artefacts as an important source of income.

6. Satellite-based monitoring revealed a marked increase in looting in ISIL-held areas in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic in 2014 and 2015. In addition, images taken of Yemen on 29 October 2015 revealed increased looting activities within the Ancient City of Marib,[3] where Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (QDe.129) is active.

7. Although ISIL has continued to lose territory in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, reducing its opportunities for looting (see S/2016/501, para. 11), the Monitoring Team and UNESCO continue to receive reports from Member States and international organizations of seizures of antiquities originating in these countries, as well as the ongoing exploitation of cultural sites under the control of terrorist groups. A recently filed complaint in a national court indicates that ISIL had been professionally marketing excavated antiquities for international sale.[4]

[2] Listed as Al-Qaida in Iraq (QDe.115).

[3] Information provided by the Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

[4] United States Department of Justice, "United States files complaint seeking forfeiture of

III. Implementation of resolution 2347 (2017)

8. In response to the above-mentioned challenges, the international community has launched a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening the protection of cultural heritage in conflict situations and combating the illicit trafficking of cultural property. In addition to resolution 2347 (2017), the Security Council has adopted the following resolutions related to cultural heritage: resolution 2199 (2015), adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations; and resolutions 2253 (2015) and 2368 (2017), in which the Council recognized the illicit trafficking of artefacts as a source of financing of terrorism and called on Member States to take appropriate measures to prevent the trade in cultural property from Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. The Council has further considered culture and its protection in the context of United Nations peacekeeping and political missions, in its resolutions 2100 (2013) and 2233 (2015), establishing the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali[4] (MINUSMA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, respectively.

9. The strategy for the reinforcement of actions by UNESCO for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict,[5] and the action plan for its implementation,[6] are aimed at integrating culture, and in particular the protection of cultural heritage, in humanitarian, security, peacekeeping and human rights policies and operations, including through operational partnerships, such as the memorandum of understanding signed between UNESCO and the International Committee of the Red Cross in February 2016. Several related resolutions and declarations have been adopted by other United Nations bodies, including the General Assembly[7] and the Human Rights Council.[8] Two reports by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights have focused on the intentional destruction of cultural heritage.[9]

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antiquities associated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)", press release 15 December 2016.

[5] UNESCO, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-eighth Session, Paris, 3–18 November 2015*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, resolution 48, and "Reinforcement of UNESCO's action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict", document No. 38 C/49 (2 November 2015). Available from http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002351/235186e.pdf.

[6] UNESCO, "Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions", document 201 EX/5, part I, 24 March 2017. Available from http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002477/247706e.pdf.

[7] Resolutions 69/281 of 28 May 2015, on saving the cultural heritage of Iraq, and 69/196 of 18 December 2014, on International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences. The latter is the first international instrument specifically developed to address criminal justice-related aspects of combating trafficking in cultural property, and is applicable to all Member States at all times. The Guidelines are aimed at assisting legislators and policymakers, as well as law enforcement officers, prosecutors, magistrates, and public and private institutions in effectively protecting cultural property from being trafficked and in effectively responding to trafficking, with a view to bringing perpetrators to justice and to returning the confiscated property to the legitimate owners.

[8] Human rights Council resolution 33/20 of 30 September 2016.

[9] A/HRC/31/59 of 3 February 2016, on the intentional destruction of cultural heritage as a violation of human rights, and A/71/317 of 9 August 2016, on a human rights approach to the intentional destruction of cultural heritage, in conflict and non-conflict situations, by States and non-State actors.

A. Ratification of international instruments

10. The strength and effectiveness of multilateral legal instruments depend on ratifications by States parties. The status of ratification of international instruments relevant to the implementation of resolution 2347 (2017), as at November 2017, can be found in annex to the present document.

11. To further promote ratification of these instruments, in February 2017 an informal ratification task force for the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects was established at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and will meet annually. A regional initiative to encourage ratification of the UNESCO Culture Conventions[10] in East Africa and the adjacent Indian Ocean islands was also spearheaded by UNESCO, in collaboration with the authorities of Mauritius, in July 2017.

B. Institutional strengthening

12. In July 2016 in Brussels, the 180 members of the WCO Council unanimously adopted a resolution on the role of customs in preventing illicit trafficking of cultural objects,[11] outlining tools and measures necessary to counter this phenomenon.

1. Creation of specialized units in central and local administrations

13. Prior to the adoption of resolution 2347 (2017), in which the Council called for the creation of specialized units in central and local administrations, a number of Member States had already taken similar measures. The Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (Italy), created in 1969, was the first specialized law enforcement department dedicated to the protection of cultural heritage. More recent initiatives include the creation by Mexico in October 2015 of a unit for investigating and prosecuting the illicit trafficking of cultural goods and the establishment by Sweden in April 2016 of a unit within the national police focused on crimes related to wildlife and cultural heritage. Estonia reported on the creation of a dedicated e-commerce control unit within its Tax and Customs Board, and Ecuador reported putting in place a specialized investigation unit for crimes against cultural heritage within its Judicial Police in 2010. In 2005, Switzerland created a specialized body within the Federal Office of Culture to deal with the international transfer of cultural property. Romania reported that the Inspectorate General of its national police had specialized personnel for the protection of national cultural heritage.

2. Tools and training for customs and law enforcement dedicated personnel and public prosecutors

14. In 2017, Sweden established a common platform for internal and external communication among relevant authorities, including its National Commission for

[10] Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005); Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003); Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001); Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972); Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970); Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954); and Universal Copyright Convention (1952 and 1971).

[11] Available from www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/public/global/pdf/about-us/legal-instruments/resolutions/resolution_cultural-objects.pdf?la=en.

UNESCO, National Museums of World Culture agency, customs officials and police, on issues related to illicit trafficking of cultural property.

15. Myanmar had trained focal points within national authorities for the protection of cultural heritage, while Armenia and France had trained their customs officials on illicit trafficking.

16. Canadian customs officers and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police had received general training on the import and export control aspects of that country's cultural property law, as well as documentation concerning cultural property, with a particular emphasis on objects from Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. The Russian Federation had put in place similar measures regarding objects from Iraq.

17. In its capacity-building programmes, UNESCO[14] works in close cooperation with partners such as INTERPOL, WCO,[15] ICOM,[16] UNIDROIT and UNODC to ensure the complementarity of their activities.

3. Creation or improvement of procedures or databases to collect information on criminal activity related to cultural property and its illicit trade

18. The Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage has developed a database of illegally removed cultural heritage, the largest and most effective of its kind. Colombia and Romania reported the creation of a specialized database containing information on illegally exported cultural property and "stolen cultural goods". Japan, the Russian Federation and Slovakia maintained records of stolen cultural objects. Further information related to international databases is provided in section III.E below.

C. Legal and judicial measures

1. Adoption of legal measures to prohibit cross-border trade of illicitly traded or trafficked cultural property originating in contexts of armed conflict

19. All 28 States members of the European Union prohibit the sale, supply, transfer or export of cultural objects removed from the Syrian Arab Republic since 9 May 2011[17] and exported from Iraq since 6 August 1990.[18] In June 2017, the

[14] UNESCO has undertaken various capacity-building programmes for heritage professionals and police and customs officials, particularly in countries in conflict, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Mali, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, in response to the heightened risk of trafficking in cultural objects. These programmes build the capacities of participants in the implementation of preventive measures and practical tools, such as updating databases on looted artefacts and improving inventories and restitution processes. Following a training-of-trainers programme in 2013, six instructors from the Afghan National Customs Academy trained 150 customs officers from across the country between 2014 and 2016. Further training sessions were held throughout 2017.

[15] In April 2017, in cooperation with the embassy of France for Libya in Tunis and with the support of Tunisian customs officials, WCO organized the first regional workshop for the Middle East and North Africa region on the topic of "The role of customs in security and development: the function of cultural heritage protection", held in Hammamet, Tunisia, which brought together customs officials from 11 countries.

[16] The International Council of Museums ICOM has developed several tools to fight illicit trafficking, including the Red Lists, which classify the endangered categories of archaeological objects or works of art in the most vulnerable areas of the world, in order to prevent them being sold or illegally exported. To date, 16 Red Lists have been published. Updated Emergency Red Lists of Iraqi cultural objects at risk and of Libyan cultural objects at risk were issued following the adoption of resolution 2199 (2015).

[17] In conformity with Council of the European Union Regulation No. 36/2012 of 18 January 2012 (amended by Regulation 2015/827 of 28 May 2015) concerning restrictive measures in view of

European Commission presented a draft regulation on the illegal import and trafficking of cultural goods from outside the European Union, stressing the importance of a common European Union framework in this regard. The regulation would provide customs officials with a legal means to seize and retain goods in cases of doubtful certification.

2. Adoption of sanctions to ensure that no funds, other financial assets or other economic resources are made available, directly or indirectly, by their nationals or persons within their territory for the benefit of ISIL and individuals, groups, entities or undertakings associated with ISIL or Al-Qaida, in accordance with relevant resolutions

20. Since its inception, the Al-Qaida sanctions regime has implemented a global asset freeze against listed individuals and entities. Consequently, any activity that directly or indirectly generates assets for a listed individual or entity falls under this provision. This includes the looting and smuggling of artefacts. Any individual or entity involved in such a trade that directly or indirectly benefits ISIL or Al-Qaida is liable to be sanctioned under this regime, and Member States are encouraged to propose listings of such individuals and entities.

21. In order to counter the threat posed by the large-scale organized looting of cultural artefacts by ISIL,[17] the Security Council, in its resolution 2199 (2015), included a moratorium on trade in cultural items illegally removed from the Syrian Arab Republic and reiterated a similar moratorium on trade in Iraqi artefacts applied in 2003. Subsequently, the Monitoring Team developed a range of recommendations for countering this threat and strengthening mechanisms of control for the international antiquities market,[18] which are reflected in paragraph 17 of resolution 2347 (2017).

22. Canada reported on its contribution to the Financial Action Task Force, its participation in the "Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS" working group to counter ISIL financing and its efforts to protect its own financial system from abuse. Romania reported that the sanctions adopted by the Security Council since 2008 were directly applicable at the national level.[19] Jordan reported that it had shared the names of individuals involved in terrorism and illegal financing through the antiquities trade with relevant agencies and had enforced the related sanctions. France reported that its sanctions regime had been strengthened in 2017 to include asset freezes.

3. Criminalization of illicit trafficking of cultural property

23. Since the adoption of resolution 2347 (2017), there have been no reports of new legal measures on the criminalization of the illicit trafficking of cultural property. Nevertheless, Italy reported that legislation to that effect was currently being discussed by its Senate, while Mexico reported that it had been reviewing related legislation since 2014.[20] In addition, Ecuador,[21] France,[22] Japan,[23] Jordan,[24]

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the situation in Syria and repealing Regulation (EC) No 442/2011.

[17] In conformity with Council of the European Union Regulation No. 1210/2003 of 7 July 2003 concerning certain specific restrictions on economic and financial relations with Iraq and repealing Regulation (EC) No. 2465/96.

[18] First reported by the Monitoring Team in 2014 in its special report on ISIL (see S/2014/815, paras. 72–78).

[19] See S/2013/730, paras. 6–7, S/2016/210, paras. 8–13, S/2016/733, paras. 24–36, S/2016/629, paras. 83–90, S/2017/35, paras. 67–68, and S/2017/971, paras. 67–69.

[20] Article 3, paragraph 1, in conjunction with article 1, paragraph 1, of Government Emergency Ordinance 202/2008.

[21] Federal Law on Archaeological, Artistic and Historic Areas and Monuments.

[22] Section 5 of the Comprehensive Organic Penal Code, arts. 237–240.

Romania,[27] Saudi Arabia,[28] Serbia,[29] Slovakia,[30] Spain,[31] Turkey,[32] Ukraine[33] and Uruguay[34] reported that such legal measures were already in place.

24. In the framework of international assistance provided through the Fund for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, Mali reported on elaborating, updating and adopting legislation to incorporate the provisions of chapter 4 of the Second Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict into its national legislation, in order to criminalize theft, pillage or misappropriation of cultural property.

25. At the regional level, the Council of Europe adopted the Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property in May 2017, which is aimed at combating the illicit trafficking of cultural property.

4. Establishment of regulations for the import and export of cultural property, consistent with international standards and the improvement of restitution mechanisms

26. By establishing well-designed import and export regulations, Member States are better positioned to counter the illegal export of cultural objects and to address gaps in the legal framework. In this regard, Ecuador, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine reported the existence of regulated processes and conditions for the movement of cultural objects.

27. Since 1993, the European Union has regulated the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of member States under Council Directive 93/7/EEC of 15 March 1993 on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State, which was updated in 2014 with the support of UNESCO, resulting in new Directive 2014/60/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State and amending Regulation (EU) No. 1024/2012 (Recast).

28. UNESCO and the WCO developed guidelines for model export certificates to assist Member States in developing and updating their national customs certification models according to an international standard.

5. Establishment of standards of provenance documentation among relevant business associations and participants in the antiquities market

29. Collectors, art dealers, auction houses and online platforms can serve as the last line of defence against the sale of artefacts looted by terrorist organizations in conflict zones. Nevertheless, they face a significant risk of being involved in this

[27] Law No. 2016-731 of 3 June 2016 on strengthening the fight against organized crime, terrorism and their financing.

[28] Act on Protection of Cultural Properties, art. 193; Act concerning Controls on the Illicit Export and Import of Cultural Property, art. 4; and Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, arts. 52 and 69-7.

[29] Antiquities Law No. 21 of 1988 and Customs Law No. 20 of 1998.

[30] Slovakian Criminal Code, Law No. 286/2009.

[31] Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage Law No. 15883.

[32] Turkish Criminal Code, Law Nos. 85/05, 88/05–correction, 107/05–correction, 72/09, 111/09, 121/12, 168/13, 108/14 and 94/16.

[33] Ukrainian Criminal Code, as amended, Act No. 300/2005.

[34] Uruguay Law No. 10/1995.

[35] Turkish Criminal Code.

[36] Criminal Code of Ukraine.

[37] Law No. 18.494 on the Control and Prevention of Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism.

illicit trade. The global trade in art and antiquities uses the concept of "provenance", loosely defined as proof of the legality of prior ownership, as its central compliance instrument. Indeed, there is currently no consensus on the optimal contents of such documentation, however, nor on the handling and storage of documentation related to the sale of antiquities. This situation is exacerbated by the increasing sophistication of forged provenance documents, particularly as regards the trade in ancient coins, for which provenance documents are rarely produced or archived (see S/2016/213, para. 34, and S/2016/629, para. 89). This presents a challenge for sellers and buyers of antiquities, as well as law enforcement agencies.

30. In the light of the growing number of cultural objects of doubtful origin for sale on the Internet, States increasingly recognize the need to take measures to counter this form of illicit trafficking. For example, Argentina reported that it had enhanced the monitoring of online sales, and Estonia and Switzerland reported that they had increased cooperation with online auction platforms.

31. Many countries, such as Canada, have adopted and implemented the UNESCO International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property[53] and the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums.[54]

32. Other means applied by Member States[55] to regulate the art market include overseeing art market professions through general trade regulations, licensing and requirements to maintain registers to track transactions, or applying obligatory provenance-check provisions in accordance with national legislation.

6. Establishment of differentiated due diligence among relevant business associations and participants in the antiquities market

33. The notion of due diligence expressed in the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects and the criteria set by article 4 (4) of that Convention have become benchmarks for due diligence evaluations in national legislation and case law, independent of a State's ratification of the Convention. It inspired the requirement of due care and attention included in European Union legislation (Directive 2014/60/EU), as well as in the European Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property.

34. While most banks, companies and industries have extensive experience with sophisticated compliance structures and due diligence processes, including know-your-customer procedures, such procedures are generally not well developed in the antiquities market and market participants have only limited experience in the implementation of sanctions (see S/2016/213, paras. 35–36). Furthermore, some market participants have been reluctant to consider the looting and illicit trafficking of antiquities from Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic as potentially significant revenue sources for terrorists.[56]

35. An agreed standard of provenance, common rules of compliance, due diligence and know-your-customer procedures would not only enable market participants to better identify potentially problematic antiquities, but also would allow law

[53] UNESCO, *Records of the General Conference, Thirtieth Session, Paris, 26 October–17 November 1999*, vol. 1 and corrigendum, Resolutions. Available from http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001213/121320M.pdf.

[54] Available in 41 languages, the Code of Ethics for Museums is a reference tool that sets minimum standards of professional practice for museums and their staff. The Code establishes the obligation to exercise due diligence when acquiring an object. All ICOM members are required to agree to respect this code.

[55] For example, Armenia, Romania, Spain and Turkey.

[56] Based on various consultations between the Monitoring Team and private sector stakeholders between 2014 and 2017.

enforcement investigators to access data on past sales more easily, introducing additional risk factors and obstacles for smugglers and their intermediaries (see S/2016/629, para. 89).

36. Estonia reported on provisions in its national legislation on due diligence, which requires museums to ascertain the origins of cultural property to prevent the registration of cultural property that has entered the country unlawfully.

37. Launched in April 2017, the joint UNESCO-European Union capacity-building project, which is aimed at engaging the European art market in the fight against illicit trafficking, foresees a comprehensive training programme on due diligence issues.

38. ICOM reported on its role in educating museum professionals and art collectors on standards of provenance documentation, differentiated due diligence and measures to prevent the trade of stolen or illegally traded cultural property.

D. Inventorying and documentation

Inventorying and documentation of national cultural property

39. Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Estonia, Mexico, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey and Ukraine reported on the existence or development of inventories of cultural property. It appears, however, that not all reporting States have established comprehensive national inventories. Rather, in Bulgaria and Canada, for example, inventorying is the responsibility of each individual museum or institution and inclusion in a comprehensive database is voluntary, when such a database exists. In Estonia and Turkey, inventories for national monuments and collections are distinct. France reported on inventorying the archives of French archaeological missions to the Syrian Arab Republic; it has also digitized archives related to the Middle East.

40. Colombia and Ecuador reported on developing software and digitizing physical inventory sheets. Turkey has developed a geographic information system-based inventorying system for built heritage and protected areas. Saudi Arabia reported on the inventorying of archaeological monuments and objects, which is accessible via an online database.

41. In Iraq, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, satellite imagery is being used to document damage to cultural sites, including through a collaboration between UNESCO and the Operational Satellite Applications Programme of UNITAR (UNOSAT).[17] Italy is supporting the documentation of the Nineveh Governorate and the area around Mosul in Iraq through satellite imagery and the provision of technical expertise.

42. UNESCO supported a field mission to eastern Mosul, Iraq, in April 2017, to assess the destruction and document new archaeological remains discovered in a tunnel network excavated by ISIL.

[17] A memorandum of understanding was signed between UNESCO and UNOSAT in June 2015, and cooperation is ongoing for the monitoring of destruction and damage via satellite imagery in Iraq, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. In this framework, UNOSAT provides images and image analysis to UNESCO, while UNESCO provides the names of experts to conduct the analysis. Following a comprehensive report on damage assessments of Syrian cultural heritage sites published in 2014, a joint summary report on assessments of cultural heritage sites in the framework of UNOSAT cooperation with UNESCO over the course of 2015 was published. Currently, an update of the 2014 report on the Syrian Arab Republic is under preparation in collaboration with UNESCO, with a special segment on the Old City of Aleppo.

43. In Yemen, local authorities and UNESCO have agreed to establish a standard database for the documentation of monuments and sites throughout the country, in partnership with the Oxford University Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa project.

44. In Afghanistan, UNESCO continues to implement the World Bank-funded project on mapping and management planning for archaeological sites, particularly those which are susceptible to threats from mining and infrastructure development.

45. Concerning intangible heritage, a strategic inventorying plan was established in Mali and 249 stakeholders received training in this field. Eritrea inventoried its intangible cultural heritage from June to August 2017, with support from UNESCO.

46. Since March 2014, in the framework of the Emergency Safeguarding of Syrian Cultural Heritage project, funded by UNESCO and the European Union, and other initiatives, technical support for inventorying and documentation has been provided through several activities, including training in the digitization of archives, held between September and November 2016. Emergency recording and archiving of cultural heritage were delivered as part of Project Anqa, a joint initiative of the International Council on Monuments and Sites and CyArk, most notably in January 2017, when the project focused on data collection and analysis.

47. ICOM, together with international organizations such as INTERPOL and UNESCO, national law enforcement personnel and museums, promoted the use of the Object ID standard as a good inventorying practice. The standard is systematically used by a number of Member States for the inventorying of their cultural property, as reported by Italy and referenced in alerts on stolen items received by UNESCO and INTERPOL, as well as national reports on the implementation of the 1970 Convention.[16]

E. International cooperation among judiciary, customs, law enforcement agencies and cultural institutions on investigations, seizures, returns and restitutions

1. Listings of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities involved in the illicit trade in cultural property

48. To date, no listing request has been proposed in the context of resolutions 2253 (2015)[17] and 2347 (2017), despite media reports of ongoing investigations and trials against relevant traffickers and intermediaries by Member States.

2. Development of law enforcement and judicial cooperation in preventing and countering all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property that may benefit organized criminal groups, terrorists or terrorist groups

49. Jordan reported on the establishment of administrative cooperation agreements in customs affairs with Arab and other countries, with a view to exchanging information on suspects and violations of customs legislation. France reported on its close cooperation with INTERPOL, notably in the framework of investigations.

50. Colombia reported having signed several bilateral agreements on the fight against illicit trafficking, including with Mexico, Honduras and the United States of

[16] Object ID is an internationally recognized tool initiated by the Getty Research Institute and managed by ICOM. It consists of a standardized checklist available in 17 languages, listing basic information on an object in order to facilitate inventorying.

[17] Paragraph 14.

America. Uruguay reported on the creation of the Technical Committee to Prevent and Combat Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Goods of the Southern Common Market and Union of South American Nations, in April 2017, to facilitate regional cooperation in the fight against illicit trafficking and the recovery of cultural property.

51. As per its usual practice, WCO regularly informed customs directors general of Security Council resolutions, European Union regulations, new restrictions and prohibitions that may have an impact on the work of customs officers on the ground. As at September 2017, 21 Member States had contacted the 27 focal points on the application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, with the goal of preventing and combating trafficking in cultural property under paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 68/186. These contact points have been included in the ongoing publication of the directory of competent national authorities, integrated into the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) database.[40]

52. Following the successful Operation Pandora of INTERPOL in November 2016, two additional operations organized by Europol (Pandora 2) and WCO (Athena) were to take place in November 2017 to counter illicit trafficking of cultural property, focusing on objects coming from the Middle East. In this framework, three workshops were organized in October 2017, in Albania, Argentina and Romania. In Cyprus in November 2017, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the support of INTERPOL and UNODC, organized a workshop on trafficking of cultural property and antiquities smuggling, with special attention given to Security Council resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2347 (2017).

3. Requests for and provision of cooperation in investigations, prosecutions, seizure and confiscation, as well as return, restitution or repatriation, of trafficked, illicitly exported or imported, stolen, looted, illicitly excavated or illicitly traded cultural property

53. With regard to its efforts to prevent the import of illicitly trafficked objects, Canada reported on the existing procedures used when diplomatic requests concerning cultural property stolen or looted from cultural institutions were received. The conclusive identification and authentication of such property required cooperation and assistance from government agencies and cultural experts in the country of origin in order to pursue the property's return under Canadian law.

4. Requests for and provision of cooperation in judicial proceedings

54. UNODC has engaged in capacity-building activities aimed at supporting States in enhancing their international cooperation in combating trafficking in cultural property. Training has been provided on criminal justice treaties, notably the Organized Crime Convention, as a basis for international judicial and law enforcement cooperation in criminal matters, especially those involving offences related to trafficking in cultural property, as well as on the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences.

55. In August 2017, a booklet outlining statistics on crimes against cultural property in 58 countries was issued by INTERPOL. This will allow INTERPOL to enhance its operations at the regional level, as well as to share sensitive information about the channels used for the illicit export of stolen objects.

[40] Available from www.unodc.org/cld/v3/sherloc.

56. Greater efforts are being undertaken by international organizations such as UNESCO and INTERPOL to collect data on damage and theft, to facilitate investigations and cooperation with law enforcement authorities, as well as the prosecution of crimes committed against cultural heritage.

5. Enhanced cooperation at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels within the scope of relevant programmes of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

57. In May 2015, Egypt, under the auspices of UNESCO, hosted an intra-ministerial conference in Cairo on "Cultural property under threat: the cultural, economic and security impacts of antiquities theft in the Middle East", which culminated in the adoption of the Cairo Declaration.[41]

6. Support for and contribution to updating the World Customs Organization Harmonized System Nomenclature and Classification of Goods

58. As part of its work on measures to prevent artefacts looted by ISIL from reaching the international market, in 2016 the Monitoring Team identified administrative changes to the WCO Harmonized System Nomenclature and Classification of Goods as a potentially effective measure (see S/2016/213, para. 28). Chapter 97 of the Nomenclature, which is currently organized by type of antiquities, could be modified to include additional subheadings, including, for example, the age of an item. This would ensure that all members of WCO amend their national regulations in a harmonized manner, preventing regional market distortions (see S/2016/629, paras. 83–84) and allowing national authorities to better identify potentially relevant antiquities and hold those which have been wrongly declared, all of which would provide more time for investigations into their origin and ownership history (see S/2016/213, paras. 29–30).

59. Romania reported using the TARIC customs tariff database, integrated at the European Union level[42] and based on the WCO Harmonized System.

7. Use of and contribution to relevant databases

60. Canada, Estonia, Italy, Romania and Spain reported using the INTERPOL Database on Stolen Works of Art. To date, more than 50,000 stolen objects have been recorded in that database, including 1,099 from the Syrian Arab Republic, 2,786 from Iraq, 684 from Afghanistan, 176 from Libya and 1 from Yemen. Information on some of these artefacts have been disseminated on special posters (see para. 101 below). INTERPOL recognizes that, as a result of the transnational nature of crimes related to culture, the involvement of several national jurisdictions leads to gaps and loopholes which are exploited by individuals and organized groups. The main challenge facing law enforcement is the lack of priority given to this type of crime. Therefore, INTERPOL encourages the creation of specialized units and dedicated national databases to combat illicit trafficking of cultural property.

[41] In response to the threat to cultural heritage in the Middle East, the Governments of Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the Sudan agreed during the conference to unite their efforts against the trafficking, destruction and looting of cultural heritage. The Declaration is available from http://theantiquitiescoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Cairo-Declaration-final-version-May-2015.pdf.

[42] Using TARIC is mandatory for all 28 States members of the European Union, owing to the common customs territory at the European Union level and the resulting requirement that States use the same classification code (regarding the same good) in all European Union customs offices. The legal base of TARIC is Council regulation (EEC) No. 2658/87 of 23 July 1987 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff.

61. Canada, Estonia and Romania reported on their contribution to and use of the UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws.

62. To date, the ARCHEO platform of WCO contains 145 vetted contacts from 53 countries, international organizations and academia. In order to implement Security Council resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2347 (2017), there have been specific efforts to promote and enhance the use of ARCHEO in the Middle East and North Africa region. In addition, Bulgaria, Estonia and Romania reported on their use of the ARCHEO platform.

63. In Switzerland, the University of Geneva has created the ArThemis database, an open source and publicly available database that records cases of return and restitution of cultural objects that have been resolved without litigation.

8. Provision of data and information on the investigation and prosecution of relevant crimes and related outcomes to the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime database and on seizures of cultural property to the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team

64. UNODC continues to collect national legislation and case law decisions on cultural property offences for inclusion in its SHERLOC database, aimed at facilitating communication between States, police, civil society and other organizations. The database was developed to provide easy access to legislation and cases related to the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention by its States parties. Estonia and Romania reported using SHERLOC.

65. In paragraph 15 of resolution 2253 (2015), the Security Council called upon Member States to report interdictions of antiquities to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. To date, the Monitoring Team continues to receive information concerning seizures of such items by Member States, confirming that several thousand artefacts have been seized within the conflict zone, neighbouring regions and in transit and potential market countries.

66. Member States have highlighted several challenges in this area. Owing to the lack of documentation for existing cultural artefacts within the conflict zones, it is difficult for Member States to confirm that the seized artefacts were looted there. Despite the existence of the global moratorium on the trade of artefacts illegally removed from Iraq or the Syrian Arab Republic,[43] Member States must verify that the seized artefacts fall under this moratorium. Member State authorities explained that linking the seized artefacts to the illegal trade by terrorist organizations such as ISIL or Al-Qaida required long-term investigations. The exchange of information in different languages remained a technical challenge and at times slowed down exchanges between Member States.

67. Consequently, the Monitoring Team recommended that Member States actively exchange information on seized antiquities via the INTERPOL Database on Stolen Works of Art (see S/2016/210, para. 10) and information on seizures and investigations via the ARCHEO platform of WCO (see S/2016/629, para. 86). In addition, investigations into seized antiquities are complex and require a significant level of expertise. Therefore, the creation and maintenance of specialized law enforcement and customs authorities by Member States is considered necessary (see S/2016/213, para. 30).

[43] Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), para. 17.

9. Provision of lists of archaeological sites, museums and excavation storage houses located in territories under the control of ISIL or any other listed group to relevant industry stakeholders

68. The documentation of existing artefacts at risk of looting within conflict zones remains a priority. ISIL systematically robbed the storage depots of museums and former archaeological digs. Many artefacts in areas currently under the control of ISIL have been identified and documented. A significant proportion of these items have been catalogued by the museums concerned and archaeological expeditions. Currently, there are several projects under way to enable the collection and digitalization of relevant information (ibid., para. 32).

69. The creation of systematic databases would enable market participants to secure information regarding the identity of objects that have likely been traded by ISIL-related individuals, which would then allow them to vet the antiquities encountered in the course of their business activities (ibid.). Such data can only protect artefacts already unearthed and catalogued, and therefore represents only one of many measures necessary to counter the threat of antiquities looted from conflict zones.

70. As a founding member of the International Committee of the Blue Shield, ICOM participates in different projects aimed at mapping sites and museums located in territories under the control of armed groups. The creation of watch lists of museums and sites in regions at risk has added an essential tool to assess damages and monitor international support.

71. UNESCO, ICOM and their networks have provided information on cultural property in Libya, Mali, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and northern Iraq for inclusion in military "no-strike" lists.

F. Operational actions on the ground

1. Measures to protect and secure cultural property at risk of looting in the context of armed conflict

72. To ensure the protection of the site of Nimrud (Iraq), a protective fence was set up, and tarpaulin material provided to protect archaeological remains. As part of a project for emergency interventions to secure museums and monuments, UNESCO, in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities of Libya, purchased anti-intrusion and security materials for museums and provided support for the construction of secured storage for movable heritage and reinforcement of security perimeters around heritage sites. As a follow-up to several activities implemented by UNESCO in 2016 for the emergency protection of cultural heritage in the Syrian Arab Republic and to the emergency mission to the Ancient City of Aleppo in January 2017, an agreement was concluded with the Aleppo City Council, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of the Syrian Arab Republic and non-governmental organizations to take a set of emergency measures. These included consolidation work to prevent buildings from collapsing, debris management to prevent looting and documentation for the Citadel of Aleppo and other major historic structures. A technical coordination meeting was convened by UNESCO at the request of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums in March 2017 in Beirut.

73. A workshop on emergency safeguarding measures was conducted by the Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage for officers from the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities of Iraq in July 2017 in Baghdad. Another training session was held in Erbil in July 2017,

targeting Kurdish police forces, cultural heritage experts and academics. Similar workshops on the conservation and management of archaeological sites at risk were organized by the Iraqi-Italian Institute of Archaeological Sciences in April 2017 in Baghdad.

74. Other training courses were conducted in countries neighbouring conflict-affected areas, including a workshop on the protection of cultural heritage in emergency situations, jointly organized in June 2017 by the British Institute at Ankara, the American Research Institute in Turkey — Ankara, the embassy of the United States in Ankara and the General Directorate for Heritage and Museums of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

75. Through their network of heritage professionals, the ICOM Disaster Risk Management Committee and Blue Shield promote best practices to protect and secure cultural property and support capacity-building to develop emergency planning in museums. Recently, the Smithsonian Institution, an active ICOM member, elaborated a data set for the study of the intentional destruction of historical sites. Through a new partnership with the United States Department of State, fieldwork was conducted to document and stabilize the recently liberated ancient city of Nimrud.

2. Measures taken to prevent and counter trafficking in cultural property and related offences

76. Prior to the adoption of resolution 2347 (2017), many Member States began fine-tuning their national legislation, adjusting administrative procedures, particularly in free ports, and raising public awareness of the issue of antiquities smuggling. Several Member States continued reporting on seizures of antiquities, including those potentially related to conflict zones and the financing of terrorism. The work to implement the various provisions of resolution 2347 (2017), in particular the measures outlined in its paragraph 17, will take time. Once implemented, however, these measures have the potential to increase significantly the ability of the international community to counter this threat and the capacity of the global art market to resist attempts to misuse it for illegal activities.

77. Five countries reported on the implementation of concrete measures aimed at identifying trafficking offenses. Armenia conducts comprehensive operative-search measures on the detection and prevention of activities of any organizations, groups and individuals associated with ISIL, the Al-Nusra Front and Al-Qaida via its National Security Service. Jordan reported using X-ray scanners to uncover smuggling operations. In 2012, Switzerland strengthened the control of imports and exports of cultural objects from Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, including those stored in free ports, by using risk profiling. Turkey reported raising awareness with regard to Iraqi and Syrian cultural heritage among its law enforcement and customs authorities. The Russian Federation reported on the monitoring of auctions for listings of stolen cultural objects.

3. Efforts undertaken by Member States with regard to the recovery of cultural heritage

78. Afghanistan continues to work with UNESCO to implement several projects to rehabilitate and recover heritage. It has also established a multi-partner trust fund supporting a national programme for culture and the creative economy.

79. Six "first aid meetings" since 2014 on a wide range of specific aspects of technical recovery have been organized by UNESCO in the Syrian Arab Republic with the support of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of that country. The World Heritage Committee, at its forty-first session, held in Krakow,

Poland, in July 2017, requested that the Syrian Arab Republic invite joint reactive monitoring missions of UNESCO, the International Council on Monuments and Sites and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property to its six World Heritage Sites as soon as the security situation allowed, to assess the state of conservation of the properties and to formulate, in consultation with the State party, measures for their recovery. Since April 2017, UNESCO has had a national officer for culture in Aleppo to ensure coordination with local and national authorities and to follow up on the implementation of recovery actions for the city.

80. Concerning Iraq, an international coordination conference on the safeguarding of cultural heritage in liberated areas of Iraq, organized at UNESCO headquarters in Paris in February 2017, resulted in the mapping of ongoing and planned activities, and the planning of short- and medium-term actions, including the creation of a Baghdad-based joint steering committee responsible for implementing the action plan adopted at the conference. UNESCO is mobilizing funding for implementation of the action plan.

81. Following insurgent attacks on the Nigerian World Heritage property Sukur Cultural Landscape in December 2014, Nigeria submitted a request for international assistance under the UNESCO World Heritage Fund in October 2016 to support the provision of local building materials for its restoration. The project was approved in March 2017.

82. Mali reported the establishment of a conservation and safeguarding programme for all of its World Heritage properties and those on its Tentative List, to which three new properties were added in 2017.

83. Following the sentencing by the International Criminal Court of Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi to nine years in prison for intentionally directing attacks against religious and historic buildings, including the mausoleums of saints, in the World Heritage Site of Timbuktu, Mali,[44] the Court's member States, via the trust fund for victims, are reviewing the modalities for the awarding of reparations, assessed at $2.7 million, to the victims of these crimes, notably for moral harm and with a view to supporting the recovery of the affected community.[45] UNESCO is assisting the trust fund in implementing the reparations plan, and is contributing to the elaboration by the Court of a policy on cultural property, participating in a multi-stakeholder expert consultation meeting in July 2017 in The Hague.

4. Protection of cultural property in safe havens within the territory of each Member State

84. France reported incorporating into its law the legal principle of safe havens for the protection of cultural objects at risk from conflict or natural disaster, as well as the designation of a safe haven in France for its own cultural objects, as well as those from other countries, upon request.

[44] International Criminal Court, *The Prosecutor v. Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi*, case No. ICC-01/12-01/15, judgment and sentence on the situation in the Republic of Mali, 27 September 2016. Available from www.icc-cpi.int/CourtRecords/CR2016_07244.PDF.

[45] International Criminal Court, *The Prosecutor v. Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi*, case No. ICC-01/12-01/15, reparations order on the situation in the Republic of Mali, 17 August 2017. Available from www.icc-cpi.int/CourtRecords/CR2017_05117.PDF.

5. Assistance provided for the demining of cultural sites and objects upon the request of affected States

85. The Russian Federation reported on its involvement in the demining of the World Heritage Site of Palmyra via the Anti-Mine Centre of the Russian Armed Forces.

86. Mali reported cooperating with the United Nations Mine Action Service on a general demining programme in the conflict areas affecting its natural and cultural heritage sites.

87. France expressed its readiness to consider requests for support from Member States regarding the demining of cultural sites.

G. Educational and awareness-raising programmes

1. Creation of educational programmes on protecting cultural heritage

88. To increase awareness of the importance of protecting cultural heritage, particularly among children and youth, an increasing number of countries have reported implementing educational and recreational programmes on this subject.

89. Estonia, Japan, Romania, Spain, Turkey and Ukraine reported creating curricula on the protection of cultural heritage through their ministries of education; Ecuador reported that it intended to do the same between 2018 and 2021. Saudi Arabia had approved a comprehensive educational programme on cultural heritage aimed at anchoring culture in daily life.

90. Colombia reported on the creation of a virtual training programme entitled "Vivamos el património". Spain reported on its annual youth programme on heritage.

91. Several Member States, including Estonia and Turkey, have established educational centres within their museums, while others are creating museums with an educational focus. In Afghanistan, the Republic of Korea is supporting the establishment of the Bamiyan Cultural Centre for the promotion of cultural education for the general public. Saudi Arabia is planning the construction of 13 new regional museums.

92. Colombia, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Italy, Mali, Romania, Spain and Turkey reported on providing training and educational modules to art market professionals, museum experts, the media and traditional mediators.

93. Estonia, France, Japan and Sweden reported developing awareness-raising material on cultural heritage protection, such as brochures, websites and cartoons.

94. UNESCO also develops and implements educational programmes and activities for the protection of cultural heritage, such as the World Heritage Education Programme, the World Heritage in Young Hands educational resource kit and the World Heritage Youth Forums.

2. Raising public awareness with regard to illicit trafficking and its prevention

95. Member States have undertaken various measures to raise public awareness of illicit trafficking of cultural objects and how to prevent it. Many of these initiatives were conducted in the framework of the #Unite4Heritage campaign, launched by the Director-General of UNESCO at the University of Baghdad in March 2015, which is aimed at fostering global citizenship and tolerance, while addressing a lack of belonging as one of the root causes of radicalization.

96. Bulgaria, Estonia, Sweden and Ukraine reported on disseminating — via the Internet, printed materials, the media and social media — information regarding import and export restrictions governing trade in cultural objects.

97. Italy, France and Sweden have mounted exhibitions on illicit trafficking and the destruction of heritage, and Mexico organized events celebrating the return and restitution of looted or stolen objects. Turkey reported organizing symposiums and conferences on related topics.

98. Switzerland supported the creation of a UNESCO video clip on the protection of cultural heritage aimed at Iraqi youth. With support from Norway, the children's game "Sarmad the Adventurer" was developed to raise awareness of the cultural heritage of Iraq and the importance of protecting it from illicit trafficking. In support of Syrian youth, the University of Tsukuba, in Japan, translated the well-known children's book *A History of Syria in One Hundred Sites* into Arabic, and distributed it in schools within camps for refugees and internally displaced persons in and around the Syrian Arab Republic.

99. As part of a wider initiative to raise awareness of the destruction of heritage in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, UNESCO developed animated videos to inform local communities about actions to be taken to protect their heritage, as well as about the illicit trafficking of Syrian cultural property. UNESCO also raised awareness of illicit trafficking through travel guides and billboards in international airports. In addition, it organized a regional conference entitled "Cultural heritage and identity: an Arab youth perspective", held in Tunisia in March 2017, to promote new models of youth-led and gender-sensitive social and private entrepreneurship.

100. At the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held from 17 to 21 October 2016, UNODC launched a public awareness campaign on combating trafficking in cultural property.[46] The campaign highlights this form of crime as an urgent transnational threat involving organized criminal networks that requires closer cooperation at the international and national levels.

101. INTERPOL issued a special poster in 2015 for Iraq displaying 94 objects stolen from the Mosul Museum[47] and another poster in January 2017 featuring 22 funerary limestone relief busts stolen from Palmyra, Syrian Arab Republic.[48] ICOM disseminates practical tools such as the ICOM Red Lists of cultural objects at risk (see footnote 14 above) through its worldwide networks.

II. Support for international funding mechanisms

Contributions by Member States to the Heritage Emergency Fund, Second Protocol Fund and the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas to support preventive and emergency operations, as well as fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property

102. Eight Member States,[49] as well as private individuals, have contributed approximately $2,450,000 to the Heritage Emergency Fund of UNESCO. Additional contributions for the protection of cultural heritage in emergency situations have been made to other UNESCO funding mechanisms.

[46] See unodc.org/culturalproperty.

[47] Accessible from www.interpol.int/Media/Files/Crime-areas/Works-of-art/Poster/Objects-stolen-from-Mosul-Museum,-Iraq.

[48] Accessible from www.interpol.int/Media/Files/Crime-areas/Works-of-art/Poster/Sculptures-stolen-in-Palmyra,-Syria.

[49] Andorra, Estonia, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Qatar and Slovakia.

103. Eight State Parties[50] have contributed to the Fund for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, totalling approximately $350,000.

104. Since its launch in December 2016, $75 million has been pledged to the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas[51] from a variety of donors.

I. Support for United Nations peacekeeping operations

105. Based on its cooperation with MINUSMA and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), UNESCO is currently developing training modules for peacekeepers on the protection of cultural property. The first regional training for the Southern African Development Community, organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre in Harare was held in September 2017 with the participation of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

106. Italy reported that the protection of cultural heritage was to be among its priorities during its mandate on the Security Council in 2017. Italy intended to support the inclusion of the protection of cultural heritage in the mandates of peacekeeping missions, as well as the establishment of new training activities for peacekeepers, and international and regional forces.

IV. Observations and recommendations

107. Countering looting and the flow of cultural artefacts from conflict zones constitutes a complex task for the international community. Nevertheless, this objective must be pursued, not only to limit the large-scale destruction of cultural heritage but also to prevent terrorist organizations, such as ISIL, from developing new means of financing activities. This will require the continuing engagement of Member States and relevant international organizations, including the strengthening of inter-agency cooperation and coordination across the United Nations system, to provide multidisciplinary training, support and technical assistance to Member States.

108. Concerning the looting and illicit trafficking of cultural objects, the continued sharing of disaggregated data on criminal proceedings and seizures of such objects between United Nations entities and Member States is essential to the monitoring of progress in this area. I encourage such cooperation, especially with a view to making more readily available data on the objects identified, recovered and returned to their origin, as well as on the impact of these efforts on the financing of terrorist groups.

109. Effective measures to counter and report on the threat posed by the looting of artefacts in conflict zones will require stronger cooperation between Member States

[50] Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Netherlands, New Zealand, Slovakia and Switzerland.

[51] The Conference for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Conflict Areas, organized by France and the United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi in December 2016, resulted in the endorsement of a final declaration by all participants, with several objectives, in particular the establishment of an international fund for the protection of cultural heritage at risk as a result of armed conflict. The bylaws of the fund were registered in Geneva on 8 March 2017. The International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas is a financial institution whose purpose is to attract, mobilize, manage and distribute resources to enable the implementation of prevention programmes and the urgent protection of cultural property under the threat of destruction, damage or looting as a result of armed conflict, and to participate in its rehabilitation.

and the private sector. As highlighted above, the development of mutually agreed standards of provenance certification and documentation, as well as differentiated due diligence procedures, has proven effective. Although such standards would entail adjustments to the operation of the global art market, they can protect it against misuse and close a potential strategic gap in the defence against terrorist financing. I therefore encourage the practice of Member States of adjusting legislation and regulations and introducing due diligence, compliance and know-your-customer procedures to address this issue.

110. Data from market actors and researchers demonstrate that the profit margins for looted antiquities at the first point of sale near conflict zones are small (see S/2016/213, para. 26). Enhancing compliance structures and administrative measures designed to inhibit illicit trade in transit and potential market countries should decrease the commercial viability of looting in conflict zones. Further distribution and use of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences[57] would help Member States to develop codes of conduct, best practices, training and partnerships with Internet providers and web-based auctioneers and vendors.

111. In addition, greater understanding of terrorist financing risks would help identify the kinds of financial transactions that might be involved in the transport and sale of looted and smuggled artefacts, allowing for more preventive action. To this end, I encourage Member States to consider the provisions of Security Council resolutions 2199 (2015), 2253 (2015) and 2368 (2017) concerning terrorist financing streams, including those which relate to the smuggling of antiquities, as complementary to their implementation of resolution 2347 (2017).

112. As the standard-setting specialized agency for cultural heritage protection, UNESCO plays a central role in supporting the development of documentation standards and tools for cultural heritage. These standards are key to the archiving of materials, the establishment of baseline data and the processes of rehabilitation and recovery. Moreover, in the light of the valuable work undertaken by UNESCO in the context of UNIFIL and MINUSMA, I will encourage United Nations entities and relevant Secretariat departments to consider the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict in their training of personnel, as appropriate, and in their planning processes ahead of mandate renewals or the establishment of new missions. This includes the Syrian Arab Republic, where the protection of cultural heritage, as well as its rehabilitation for post-conflict recovery, would need to be considered as factors in resilience, reconciliation, social cohesion and economic development.

113. Finally, recognizing the importance of protecting cultural heritage as part of the protection of the social and cultural rights of the population is a first step in galvanizing an effective response in this regard. In this light, I welcome the initiative of various Member States to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of protecting cultural property from destruction, looting and illicit trafficking. Further engaging and creating partnerships with civil society, communities and youth through heritage education and other activities that promote respect for cultural diversity, tolerance and inclusive societies would help to harness these national efforts and contribute to long-term efforts to prevent the destruction, looting and illicit trafficking of cultural property in the event of armed conflict.

[57] General Assembly resolution 69/196, annex.

Annex

Status of ratification of international instruments relevant to the implementation of resolution 2347 (2017)

Instrument	Number of States parties	Ratifications or accessions since adoption of resolution 2347 (2017)
Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954)	129	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (12 September 2017)
Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954)	107	Botswana (23 August 2017) United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (12 September 2017)
Second Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1999)	73	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (12 September 2017)
Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970)	135	Botswana (23 August 2017) Monaco (25 August 2017) United Arab Emirates (October 2017)
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)	193	None
UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995)	41	Bosnia and Herzegovina (8 May 2017) Lao People's Democratic Republic (18 May 2017) Botswana (28 August 2017)
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998)	128	None
International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999)	188	Zambia (7 April 2017)
United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)	189	Japan (11 July 2017) Fiji (19 September 2017)
Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)	57	Kuwait (30 May 2017)
Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)	174	Malta (13 April 2017) Tuvalu (12 May 2017)
United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003)	183	Japan (11 July 2017) Niue (3 October 2017)
Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)	144	None